

required at your hands? Abraham stayed with his father half way to Canaan until that father died. It is so natural for children to follow in the foot steps of a father if they honor and respect that father as they should. They will reason this way: In all temporal matters father has advised me in the best possible way. He has taught me to be honest and industrious; he has made many sacrifices in order that I might obtain an education and become a useful member of society. Surely in the matter of religion, he knows best; he is older and wiser than I and he would not lead his own child to make such a fatal mistake.

But Abram's father did that very thing. How many fathers to-day are doing the same thing? And they are not the only class. I wonder if we have any young people here to-night who are "half way to Canaan," and are stopping there? Intelligent young people who are striving earnestly to prepare themselves for usefulness in this life. Our public schools, academies and colleges are full of them. Wherever we go in this broad, beautiful land of ours we see them. Every neighborhood, every town and city is full of them. They are putting forth every effort to get half way to Canaan. They even seem to be striving to see who shall reach the goal first. But how many! How very many will stop there! Did you ever think, dear young friends that a mind developed intellectually and not spiritually is only half developed? That such a mind has only attained half way to the full, well rounded state that it should reach.

We are three fold beings; physical, intellectual, and spiritual. We all know how sad it is to see a young lady or gentleman with an almost perfect physique, whose mind has been wholly neglected. We feel like saying, what a great pity. Or to see a person with a giant intellect, a master mind in a little dwarfed, paralyzed, deformed body. We see the one sidedness of these and are ready to deplore it at once. But the individual who neglects his spiritual development lacks just as much, yes, even more, of being the perfect man or woman that he should be. I am not here to plead for any denomination, but I do wish to say to these

young people who have begun so well Do not stop half way to Canaan. Strive on until you have developed yourselves spiritually, intellectually and physically into that perfect stature of manhood and womanhood which God intended you should possess.

There is another class of people who are only "half way to Canaan." Professed Christians, who at one time were deeply in earnest, alive and awake pressing on toward the goal and never intending to stop; but like Terah, they came to such a good country. Perhaps it was the country of worldly prosperity; everything was so inviting; they thought they would pause and rest awhile. By and by they reached back into the old life, and brought up some of the idols that they had left behind, and before they are aware of it, they like Terah, have settled down and are dwelling contentedly "half way to Canaan." Idol worship is growing. There is great danger of the last state of such an one being worse than the first.

A new start must be made. Half way to Canaan will not suffice. Haran was no better than Ur of the Chaldees, and Terah died there. Nothing less than accepting the offered plan of salvation will ever save any one. God forbid that any of us should ever rest contentedly, "half way to Canaan."

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GRACES OF MANNER

It is the little graces of manner that make up a charming personality. For instance, an exchange remarks that so few people know how to receive a favor graciously. Ask them to render you a service, and they could not be more ready than they are. But try to offer them a courtesy, and see how quickly you will retire from their presence with a feeling of wounded pride and annoyance. Some will refuse outright, and others will accept as if they were bestowing a royal condescension. To accept something that we do not want, for which we have no use, to accept it in such a manner that the one who offers it will feel that he has rendered a desired service, is the height of consideration and good breeding. The strong, capable and able-bodied do not like to be served. It is much easier to serve one's self than to lie back and be waited upon. They truly feel that it is more blessed to give than to receive—blessed, perhaps, because they do not want

to receive. But such people would deny to others what they claim most strenuously for themselves—the right to confer a favor or to discharge an obligation, the sense of which sets heavily upon them.—*Chicago Standard.*

THE DEVIL REJOICES WHEN CHRISTIANS DISAGREE.

If there is any time when we can imagine the Devil happy, it is when he sees the people of God quarreling among themselves, disagreeing, one denomination denouncing another; two pastors, perhaps, having a controversy in newspaper columns over some doctrinal point; two Christians that have not gotten to the place where they can pray together over differences; a church divided against itself; one faction trying to accomplish one thing, and another, another. Says one, "We are human and must expect these things." Very true, but have we any right to continue them as members? Is not God able to direct and help His children to be so on fire with love to Him and for the salvation of souls that minor differences and disagreements shall be forgotten? What a blessing a revival is in a community! How quarrels are forgotten! The hatchet is buried! Men and women who have been bitter enemies kneeling together praying! What is possible in a revival time is possible at all times, if you and I are in the right spirit,—if we are in the right position before God. Let us see that, as far as we are concerned, we are ready at all times to do our part, leaving as little as possible for the Devil to rejoice over.—Sel.

LED THROUGH OUR MISTAKES.

God often leads us into paths of his own choosing through our mistakes. "A short time ago," says a minister, "I bought a ticket intending to take the next train for a certain place. A train came into the station at the hour when my train was to leave. I entered it, but soon learned, when it was too late, that it was the wrong train for me. My regrets were unspeakable. I severely chided myself for not making inquiry as to whether or not it was the train I ought to have taken.

I went on that train thirteen miles, and got off. Then I asked God to tell me what was the meaning of my seeming mistake.

After praying half an hour, light came into my mind.

I was moved to go from there to see a friend seven miles distant and off the railroad.

While spending a few days there, an important letter was forwarded to me, which caused me to go to another place before returning home, where my service was specially needed. As soon as I received that letter I saw plainly that God had led me, through my mistake, to a place of duty, and I also got the whole benefit of my ticket besides."

—*Christian Age.*